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Home Appliance *NewsLine*

An AHAM Bulletin to Editors

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THIRD-BEST APRIL

FOR MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE SHIPMENTS

CHICAGO -- Over 4.0 million major home appliances were shipped in April, a quarter-million more than one year earlier, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

The strong gain in April shipments, preceded by two consecutive months of robust demand, signals the long-awaited rebound for major home appliances.

Shipments increased 6.7% in April and 6.3% in the first four months, compared to the same periods one year ago.

These two signs of strength were especially evident: ten of the 12 product categories surpassed their year-ago levels, and several core products -- categories accounting for the bulk of dollar value for full-line appliance manufacturers -- set all-time April highs:

- Refrigerators -- at 640,400 units, passed their April record of last year by nearly 35,000 units.
- Electric ranges -- at 302,500 units, surpassed their 1978 April record by 11,500 units.
- Gas dryers -- at 91,100 units, passed last April's record by 9,300 units.

(MORE)

- Electric dryers -- at 266,300 units, passed their April 1987 record by 2,300 units.
- Gas ranges -- at 212,900 units, surpassed their 1972 April record by almost 2,000 units.

Shipments for the first four months exceeded 15.1 million units, nearly 900,000 units more than the same 1991 period.

According to the industry forecast developed in February, 1992 shipments are expected to increase 2.9% over 1991's to approximately 44.6 million units.

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MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS*, THOUSANDS OF UNITS
April, 1992

	APRIL			CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE		
	1992	1991	% Change	1992	1991	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**	**4,054.9**	**3,798.6**	**6.7%**	**15,120.4**	**14,228.4**	**6.3%**
COOKING - TOTAL	**1,125.6**	**935.4**	**20.3%**	**4,549.6**	**3,996.0**	**13.9%**
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	302.5	278.3	8.7%	1,106.6	1,059.8	4.4%
Free Standing	211.2	196.5	7.5%	768.5	738.0	4.1%
Built-In	53.6	47.0	14.0%	194.1	184.3	5.3%
Surface Cooking Units	37.8	34.8	8.6%	144.1	137.4	4.9%
GAS RANGES - TOTAL	212.9	193.5	10.0%	788.6	739.3	6.7%
Free Standing	182.3	163.5	11.5%	660.9	622.2	6.2%
Built-In	8.4	7.6	10.5%	30.9	30.3	2.0%
Surface Cooking Units	22.2	22.4	-0.9%	96.8	86.8	11.5%
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES***	618.3	471.2	31.2%	2,684.2	2,227.8	20.5%
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	**865.4**	**862.9**	**0.3%**	**3,658.7**	**3,515.9**	**4.1%**
AUTOMATIC WASHERS	508.0	519.0	-2.1%	2,124.6	2,066.7	2.8%
DRYERS - TOTAL	357.4	343.9	3.9%	1,534.1	1,449.2	5.9%
Electric	266.3	262.1	1.6%	1,156.1	1,113.9	3.8%
Gas	91.1	81.8	11.4%	378.0	335.2	12.8%
KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL	**629.0**	**596.1**	**5.5%**	**2,522.4**	**2,516.4**	**0.2%**
DISPOSERS	298.5	281.6	6.0%	1,291.1	1,314.8	-1.8%
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	320.6	304.8	5.2%	1,191.6	1,159.8	2.7%
Built-In	303.3	287.2	5.6%	1,127.0	1,087.4	3.6%
Portable	17.2	17.6	-2.3%	64.6	72.5	-10.9%
COMPACTORS	10.0	9.7	3.1%	39.7	41.8	-5.0%
FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL	**760.7**	**719.9**	**5.7%**	**2,626.9**	**2,439.6**	**7.7%**
REFRIGERATORS	640.4	605.7	5.7%	2,197.5	2,055.9	6.9%
FREEZERS - TOTAL	120.3	114.2	5.3%	429.4	383.6	11.9%
Chest	73.9	66.9	10.5%	250.6	212.6	17.9%
Upright	46.4	47.3	-1.9%	178.8	171.0	4.6%
HOME COMFORT - TOTAL	**674.1**	**684.3**	**-1.5%**	**1,762.8**	**1,760.7**	**0.1%**
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	545.2	532.2	2.4%	1,398.2	1,372.6	1.9%
DEHUMIDIFIERS	129.0	152.1	-15.2%	364.6	388.1	-6.1%

* Includes shipments for the U.S. market whether imported or domestically produced, and export shipments
** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.
*** Includes microwave ovens and combination microwave ovens/ranges.